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SUBJECT: GERMANY H1N1 FLU UPDATE: 9 CONFIRMED CASES

REF: A) Berlin 488, B) Berlin 495, C) Berlin 512

11. (SBU) SUMMARY: The Robert Koch Institute (RKI) confirmed another case of A/H1N1 Influenza in Germany, increasing the total number of confirmed cases to nine. One man from Saxony-Anhalt tested positive for H1N1 after returning from Mexico with flu-like symptoms. The German government announced that the reporting requirement for doctors to health authorities of H1N1 suspicious cases will remain in effect for one year -- until April 30, 2010 -- unless extended by the Bundesrat (the upper house of Parliament). END SUMMARY.

New Cases of H1N1 in Saxony-Anhalt

12. (SBU) In addition to the eight confirmed H1N1 cases reported in Refs B and C, the Robert Koch Institute confirmed another case of H1N1 in a press briefing on the morning of 5 May -- increasing the total number of confirmed cases in Germany to nine.

13. (SBU) One man from Saxony-Anhalt tested positive for H1N1 after returning from Mexico. Media reported that the man went to a doctor over the weekend with flu-like symptoms. The man was not hospitalized because the case seemed mild, and media report that he is now free of symptoms. Local health officials are seeking to confirm that the patient did not spread the virus.

Mandatory Reporting to Health Authorities

14. (SBU) As reported in Ref C, Germany added H1N1 to its list of illnesses that requiring mandatory reporting to health authorities. Doctors must report to the Health Ministry in cases of confirmed or suspected infection or death as a result of H1N1. The ordinance, which went into effect on May 3, will remain in effect until April 30, 2009, unless extended by the Bundesrat.

